

# Don't touch!!

A high school in America has banned students from all forms of physical contact with each other. The Quest Academy has warned students not to hug, shake hands, or give high-fives. The school was briefly the centre of attention a week ago when US president Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron visited it. The two leaders maybe broke the school rules with their back-slapping and high-fives during a game of table tennis with students. The idea behind the banning is to help stop bullying, said school principal Andy Croft. He said: "Physical contact between students is not allowed at the academy because it is linked with poor behavior and can lead to fighting."

Students and teachers are up in arms at the new rules. Student Dayna Chong, 15, received detention for cuddling her female friend. She said: "They're trying to turn us into robots." Her mother called the policy "extreme" and "stupid". She said: "If the kids can't even touch each other at school some of them will never learn how to be socially aware ." She added: "School is supposed to be where we start teaching our children how to be social - shaking hands, hugging, opening up. You need an embrace to comfort you when things go wrong. I've never heard of anything so crazy in my life." Mr Croft disagreed, saying his idea, "creates a disciplined environment which is important for learning and respect".

*Answer the true or false questions below. Post your answers to your solo pages*

	True or False questions	T	F
A	A london school said students cannot shake hands with each other.		
B	Barack Obama visited the school.		
C	The government put the new law in place.		
D	The school principal said physical contact led to bullying.		
E	Parents agree with the new rules.		
F	A student said the school was trying to turn students into robots.		
G	A mother said school kids shouldn't be hugging each other at school.		
H	The principal thinks the new rules are totally crazy.		

*Now answer these questions and post your answers to your solo page.*

- 1) What do you think of the story?
- 2) Do you think stopping physical contact is a good idea?
- 3) What rules did your school have? (Make a list)
- 4) Do you think they were good or bad?
- 5) Can you think of any new school rules?